FIRE SIREN
in
Pinckneyville, Illinois

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

From the Pinckneyville Democrat issue of January 11th, 1884:

When you hear the Eaton Plow Works whistle blowing several short and fast whistles and then three long, diminishing, whistles in succession....it means Fire.

/s/ E. C. Eaton

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Copied by Elizabeth Spurgeon from above paper in hands of Rex Franklin, Vergennes, Illinois.

FIRE

SOUTHWEST SIDE SQUARE

PINCKNEYVILLE, ILL.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

From the Pinckneyville Democrat issue of January 11, 1884:

The fire stopped between Hincke Brothers and the Bishof Hotel.

Burned out F. H. Beck, Klotz Cigar Store, Haas Clothing, and Dr. Huntsinger over Haas Store.

Damage to the City Hotel across from Becks.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Same reference:

W. H. Sterling says it is a mistake that Uncle John Burk was at the fire. His wife gave him that new suit of clothes.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Same reference:

Infant son of Dr. and Mrs. W. L. McCandless died by poisoning. He was nine months and nine days old. Playing on floor and got hold of a bottle of strychnine pills which had been knocked from the fireboard.

Mrs. Ritchie (his grandmother) was keeping him while his parents were downtown to see ruins of the fire southwest of the courthouse the nite before.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Copied from above paper in hands of Rex Franklin, Vergennes, Il.

Elizabeth E. Spurgeon.

McDONNOUGH'S HISTORY OF RANDOLPH, MONROE, AND PERRY COS.,IL 1883

Listed below are following businesses in Pinckneyville, Illinois, which were affected by the fire of January 10th, 1884:

G. R. Hincke & Brother	General Store
Fred Beck	Boots & Shoes/Sewing Mach.
William Klotz	Cigar Mfg. & Tobacconist
A. Haas	Clothing and Notions
Joseph Bishof	City Hotel/Saloon
Dr. Huntsinger	Must have recently moved to Pinckneyville as he is listed as Physician in Four Mile.
Wm. L. McCandless	Physician. It was he who suffered the greatest loss in the death of his son, Leonard. Fire <u>may</u> be called indirect cause.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Copied by
Elizabeth E. Spurgeon,
710 Taffee St.,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
July 12, 1987.

COURT HOUSE AT PINCKNEYVILLE PARTLY BURNED.

Fire starting in the basement of the court house at Pinckneyville at 5:00 this morning gutted the sheriff's and county superintendent's offices on the first floor and burned through to the court rooms. The Pinckneyville fire department did valiant work in putting out the fire. The walls of the building are intact.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Copied from The DuQuoin Evening Call. DuQuoin, Ill. Fri.,Feb.25,1927. p/1 Col. 5. Photostat copy of this on hand. EES

Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon,
710 Taffee,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
Nov. 1988

COURT HOUSE BADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE

Friday, last week, at five AM employees of the knitting factory looked across the street and saw the Supt. of Schools Office lit up. This blaze was over the furnace room.

Destroyed some records and papers in Supt. of Schools and the Sheriff's Office. Worth about $1,000.00. Have to wait on adjusters to determine amount of damage to building.

Supposedly caused by electric wiring (worn insulation).

Fire drawn up into the courtroom.

Fire "laddies" reached the scene in about six minutes. (That was fast) EES

This is the third fire suffered by the court house building. The first being in the office of John Boyd. The second was when lightning struck the roof one night. This is the third and most damaging.

- - - - - - - - - - -

My note....Was John Boyd the State's Atty. at the time?

- - - - - - - - - - -

Copied from "The Pinckneyville Advocate", Pinckneyville, Illinois. Paper dated Friday, March 4th, 1927. Courtesy of Harry Stanton and help from my grandson, James Spurgeon. I should have said "The Perry County Advocate" at Pinckneyville, Il. I failed to put down the page and column number but surely this was "Front Page" news. This was copied by hand in an abstracted form.

Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon,
710 Taffee,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
Nov. 2nd, 1988

THE PINCKNEYVILLE ADVOCATE PINCKNEYVILLE, IL. Nov. 4th, 1927

29 years number 53

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

When the Circuit Court convenes next Monday for the November term, the officers will find that since the May term the interior of the building has undergone a very pleasing transformation.

The walls of the court room have been redecoarted with a rich tan shading to cream on the steel ceiling. The radiators are newly gilded and all woodwork freshly varnished.

Downstairs there are new floors in both of the halls and the offices of the Sheriff and Co. Supt. of Schools. The fire last February made it necessary to repair those rooms and the work has been so well done as to add much to their convenience, as well as the appearance of that side of the building.

In the offices of the County and Circuit Clerk, on the east side, new paper, new linoleum, guilding and varnish have made the rooms bright and attractive.

In the basement an excavation about 20 x 30 feet was made, and a stairway leads down, below the other stairs, to mens toilet rooms. The expenditure has been about $2400.00.

In this centennial year of Perry County it is interesting to note that the present court house is the third building that has served as "a place wherein justice is judicially administered."

(The next six paragraphs give the history of the courthouse... and is taken from McDonnough's History of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry Cos., Il 1883) EES

Our commissioners are to be commended for the excellent work done and for the economical way in which it has been accomplished.

But now once more the county has outgrown the Court House. The records of 100 years are inadequately protected. A new wing on the east like the one on the west with a Greek Portico on the south would not only preserve the symetry of the building, but provide added space for vaults, library, offices, and the much needed Woman's Room.

May we not hope for such an addition 50 years after the last one?

- - - - - - - - - - - -

p/1 Col 3...Perry County Advocate,Pinckneyville,Il #53-29th year.

The Advocate was the Offical Republican Newspaper of Perry Co. Published every Friday at their office located NW Corner Square. W. W. Sims, Editor and Proprietor. Office 'phone...#46. One year subscription in county...$2.00; outside county...$2.50; 3 mo...60¢; single copy...05¢.

Copied by Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon,
710 Taffee, Pinckneyville, Il 62274
Newspaper given to her by Fred A. Pabst,
Pinckneyville, Il. 05-28-1986

RE COURTHOUSE FIRE PERRY COUNTY ADVOCATE Nov.4th, 1927

Paragraph five (5) of this article regarding the Feb. 25, 1927 fire at the Perry County, Il. Courthouse states this.....

"In the basement an excavation about 20 x 30 feet was made, and a stairway leads down, below the other stairs, to mens toilet rooms."

I was working in the courthouse between March 1963 and December 1970 when McDaniels put air-conditioning and gas furnace in the building. Do not remember just what year it was but probably about 1966 or 1967.

As workmen came up from a room next to the present-day west staircase they brought bottles with them quite a few times. We all saw them.

Since this was the men's toilet room it made one wonder then if this room was also used for other than answering a call of nature.

The ladies apparently had no place to go in the courthouse until the remodeling and additions were made in 1939.

- - - - - - - - - - -

Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon,
710 Taffee,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
May 28 1986

COURTHOUSE FIRE February 1927

When reading article re the above in the November 4th, 1927 issue of the Pinckneyville Advocate, keep in mind that this refers to what we know as the west part of our present-day courthouse...the east side was added about the year 1939 and this family attended the "Open House".

Elizabeth E. Spurgeon,
710 Taffee St.,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
July 12, 1987.

COURTHOUSE FIRE 1927

I could not help but wonder why employees of the knitting factory were at work by five A.M. This seemed such an early hour.

Annalee Place, whose sister married Mr. Decker, one of the managers of the factory, told me that at that time an employee was able to set his own hours and work as long or any time they wished.

The factory was located at number one (#1) West Jackson St., Pinckneyville, Il., presently occupied by McDaniels Furniture Store. Work was done on the second floor and offices were on the first floor.

Elizabeth E. Spurgeon
710 Taffee,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274
Nov. 1988

- - - - - - - - - - - -

THE DEMOCRAT, Pinckneyville, Il. Issue of Wed., Feb. 1st, 1989.

The Democrat published a picture of the employees of the factory taken about 1927. It was the property of Mrs. Dollie Coleman.

E.Spurgeon
Feb. 1, 1989